

It is time for all of the Amateur Radio operators to get out of the 20th century and get into the 21st century. I agree that CW will get through very bad atmospheric conditions. Notice I did not say how the CW was produced. It can be done via a telegraph key, clicking a PTT button or via a computer interface.

I have read the many comments of those for and against Morse Code removal. However the majority of these comments contain very little facts to back up their claims.

I have over 26 years of experience in radio communications. This experience varies from the military, commercial and amateur.

I will defend to the death a radio operator's right to use CW in any approved band. However I do not feel that it is justified, prudent, or in keeping with the FCC's mandate of improving the ranks of amateur radio operators to require any operator to show proficiency in ANY one particular mode of communications. How would you feel if you were required to show proficiency in not just **CW** but also in **RTTY**, **Packet**, **slow scan TV** and a **non-English language** in order to talk on any HF band? These are all valid means of communication and can be instrumental in any emergency situation. And I speak from experience when I say that high speed digital data can be transmitted as far, if not farther than CW in poor atmospheric conditions.

I have heard in many comments that CW is the only way to get through in case of a terrorist or nuclear attack. Well if that does happen your radio most likely will not work unless it is in a shielded metal container when the "blast" occurs. So with this being the justification to keep the Morse code test requirement we had better add the requirement that the operator show proficiency in building a radio from spare parts.

I do not have any problem with the FCC making the written test as hard as it needs to be in order to ensure that we maintain a high quality pool of operators.

I believe that the REAL reason that the majority of those opposed to the removal of the CW code test requirement is that they are afraid that the HF bands will no longer be the domain of a few. That being said, in my listening to the HF bands, I can say that at least 25% of the voice

conversations I heard contain cursing and other inappropriate behavior or language.

Fellow operators I can guarantee you this, if we do not start fully utilizing the Amateur Bands we will lose them to commercial interest.